

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) Footwear comprising:

an upper formed with a bottom portion; and

an outsole having a water barrier wall extending from the outsole, wherein the water barrier wall overlaps and is coupled to the bottom portion of the upper to minimize water leakage.
2. (Original) The footwear of claim 1, further comprising at least one thread stitched through the outsole and the upper, wherein the thread does not penetrate the water barrier wall.
3. (Currently Amended) The footwear of claim 2, wherein the outsole has an outsole wall topped by an upper edge, the upper edge having a lip spaced outwards from the water barrier wall and defining therewith a bottom area of the upper edge, wherein the water barrier wall extends upwards from the upper edge and is ~~contingent~~ contiguous with and stitchlessly coupled to the bottom portion of the upper.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Original) The footwear of claim 3, further comprising a layer of sealant located between the water barrier wall and an inner side of the bottom portion of the upper, the sealant being a heat- or pressure-activated waterproof cement.
6. (Canceled).

7. (Original) The footwear of claim 1, wherein the water barrier wall is configured with a non-uniform height with regions of the water barrier wall exposed to greater flexing forces being higher than regions thereof not exposed to the greater flexing forces.

8. (Original) The footwear of claim 7, wherein the water barrier wall has the height varying between 10 and 20 mm and has a thickness ranging between 0.5 and 1.5 mm.

9. (Original) The footwear of claim 1, wherein the outsole is made from water-resistant material selected from the group consisting of rubber, plastic, water-resistant leather and a combination thereof, the outsole being molded integrally with the water barrier wall.

10. (Original) The footwear of claim 1, wherein the upper has an inner forefoot region provided with a lining, the water barrier wall being sandwiched between a lower region of the lining and the bottom portion of the upper.

11. (Currently Amended) The footwear of claim 1, wherein the outsole is provided with a central cavity delimited by the water barrier wall and configured to receive a midsole so that the ~~peripheral~~ water barrier wall separates the midsole from the upper.

12. (Original) The footwear of claim 11, wherein the midsole has a forefoot region provided with at least one slit.

13. (Original) The footwear of claim 11, wherein the outsole, midsole, and upper are made from flexible material.

14. (Original) Footwear comprising:

an upper having a lower edge;

an outsole having an upper edge provided with a lip and a water barrier wall spaced inwards from the lip, the upper edge of the outsole being configured to receive the lower edge of the upper between the lip and water barrier wall, which extends upwards from the lower edge and overlaps an inner surface of the upper; and

a waterproof sealant provided between and coupling the inner surface of the upper and the water barrier wall, wherein the lower edge of the upper and the upper edge of the outsole are stitched together by a thread, which does not penetrate the water barrier wall.

15. (Original) The footwear of Claim 14, further comprising a midsole separated from the upper by the water barrier wall.

16. (Original) A method for constructing footwear, comprising:

(a) providing an upper;

(b) providing an outsole having a water barrier wall, wherein the water barrier wall extends upwards from an upper edge of the outsole;

(c) juxtaposing the upper with the outsole so that the water barrier wall overlaps an inner side of the upper; and

(d) stitching the outsole to the upper without piercing the juxtaposed water barrier wall.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the upper edge of the outsole has a lip spaced outwards from the water-barrier wall, the method further comprising:

prior to step (d), bending a lower edge of the upper, thereby extending the lower edge substantially parallel to a bottom of the upper edge of the outsole;

applying a waterproof sealant between the inner side of the bottom portion of the upper and the water barrier wall; and

after step (d), activating the waterproof sealant, thereby enabling the waterproof sealant to flow between the inner side of the bottom portion of the upper and the water barrier wall and between the bottom of the upper edge of the outsole and the lower edge of the upper, thereby bonding the outsole and upper together.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17, wherein the step (c) includes:

providing a plurality of channels in an outsole wall, wherein each of the plurality of channels ~~each~~ opens at opposite ends thereof to an exterior of the outsole wall and to the bottom of the upper edge of the outsole, respectively;

providing a series of holes in the lower edge of the upper;

aligning each of the series of holes provided in the lower edge of the upper with a respective one of the ~~holes opening into~~ openings at the bottom of the upper edge; and

traversing the plurality of channels formed in the outsole wall and the holes formed in the lower edge of the upper by at least one thread, thereby stitching the upper to the outsole, the layer of activated waterproof sealant plugging the holes while flowing across the upper edge of the outsole.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of placing a midsole within a cavity formed in the outsole and delimited by the water barrier wall, thereby isolating the midsole from the upper.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising a step of coupling an inner lining with the inner side of the upper along a forefoot portion of the upper so that the waterproof wall is sandwiched between bottom portions of the lining and the upper.

21. (New) Footwear having an outsole comprising:

a cavity within the outsole delimited by an outsole wall;

an upper edge formed on the outsole wall extending along a periphery of the outsole;

a water barrier wall extending from the outsole wall, the water barrier wall being adjacent to and extending beyond the upper edge of the outsole wall, wherein the upper edge of the outsole wall extends from the water barrier wall in a direction opposite the cavity;

an upper having a bottom portion and a bottom edge, wherein the bottom edge and the bottom portion are juxtaposed with the upper edge of the outsole wall and the water barrier wall, respectively; and

at least one thread for stitching the bottom edge of the upper to the upper edge of the outsole, without penetrating the water barrier wall.

22. (New) The footwear of claim 21, wherein the water barrier wall is stitchlessly coupled to the upper and terminates at a position above the bottom edge of the upper and the upper edge of the outsole wall.

23. (New) The footwear of claim 21, further comprising a lip formed on the outsole wall extending along the periphery of the outsole, wherein the lip extends from and is contiguous with

the upper edge of the outsole wall, and is spaced apart from the water barrier wall in the direction opposite the cavity.